

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

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|--|---|--|
| <p>Applicant's or agent's file reference PF17343-1882</p> | | <p>Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23.8.2005</p> |
| <p>FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below</p> | | |
| <p>International application No. PCT/JP2005/010734</p> | <p>International filing date (day/month/year) 06.06.2005</p> | <p>Priority date (day/month/year) 07.06.2004</p> |
| <p>International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int.Cl.⁷ B41J2/175</p> | | |
| <p>Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA</p> | | |

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

Box No. I Basis of the opinion
 Box No. II Priority
 Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
 Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 Box No. VI Certain documents cited
 Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
 Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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|---|------|----|------|
| <p>Date of completion of this opinion 04.08.2005</p> | | | |
| <p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan</p> | | | |
| <p>Authorized officer KADO, Ryosei Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3261</p> | | | |
| <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">2P</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">2907</td> </tr> </table> | | 2P | 2907 |
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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/010734

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(f) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

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|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1 - 1 1 | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1 - 1 1 | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1 - 1 1 | YES |
| | Claims | _____ | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

D1: JP 2004-82403 A (SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION) 2004.03.18, [0019], Fig.8

D2: JP 2004-106397 A (RICOH COMPANY, LTD) 2004.04.08, [0009], Fig.2

The subject matters of claims 1-11 are neither disclosed in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.